



# City of Cambridge Police Department

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Robert C. Haas  
Police Commissioner

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

February 25, 2009

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

Re: Council Order #6, dated January 12, 2009

Dear Sir:

As requested, I am responding to the City Council Order # 6 requesting a report on the status of the pedestrian fatality that took place on January 6, 2009.

Below are some of the facts surrounding the accident and the actions taken by the Cambridge Police Department in collaboration with the Middlesex District Attorney's Office and the Massachusetts State Police. This is still an active investigation. However, we have identified the major contributing factors which led to the death of Mrs. Helen Chin of Medford.

On Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at approximately 3:15 p.m., an accident occurred involving a pedestrian and an automobile at the intersection of Oxford Street and Wendell Street. The roadway is a single lane of travel in both directions and parking lanes to the right. The intersection has a raised pedestrian walkway/crosswalk that extends the full width of the intersection and there are no traffic control devices (traffic signals). Two posted yellow traffic signs alert motorists of the impending pedestrian crossing as they approach the intersection from either direction.

At the time of the accident, the traffic volume was light and the weather conditions were clear with no glare. The roadway surface was dry and free of obstructions and the sidewalk area was bordered by approximately two (2) foot snow banks. Parking in the immediate area was clear with enough room to allow two vehicles on all four corners along Oxford St. in both directions.

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2009 MAR -2 PM 2:44  
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The vehicle involved in this accident was a 1993 Toyota Corolla that is registered and insured to the owner/operator with a valid Massachusetts license to operate. The operator has cooperated fully with the ongoing investigation and there is no indication that the operator was impaired at the time of the accident. The Massachusetts State Police collision analysis and reconstruction section responded to the scene to complete a full reconstruction report of the accident, which is pending. The Middlesex County District Attorney's Office was notified of the fatality and will be updated.

Because this is an active investigation, which may or may not result in criminal charges, I am not at liberty to disclose any additional information.

Once the Middlesex District Attorney's Office closes the investigation, I may be able to provide you with additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Haas", is written above the printed name.

Robert C. Haas  
Police Commissioner

RCH/bk